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L35: Entry 91 of 105

File: USPT

Dec 21, 1999

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6006201 A

TITLE: Electronic on-line motor vehicle auction and information system

Abstract Text (1):

An electronic auction and motor vehicle auction information system allows remote users to interactively participate in motor vehicle auction sales of motor vehicles using a personal computer. Additional user applications associated with the system permit users to access and search a system database and display data about motor vehicle auction dates and locations, vehicle inventory, industry news, and vehicle sales history. A dealer Direct application allows commercial vehicle sellers to import their vehicle inventories into the system for sale to participating dealers.

Brief Summary Text (2):

The present invention relates generally to commercial motor vehicle auctions in which motor vehicle dealers purchase at auction pre-owned motor vehicles which have been assembled at one or more remote locations by a motor vehicle auction company. More particularly, this invention pertains to information systems and networks which allow on-line participation in the motor vehicle auction process and which provide auction participants access to auction-related data.

Brief Summary Text (3):

Motor vehicle auctions have become a popular way for motor vehicle dealers to add to their inventory of used vehicles which are sold at retail at their locations. Accordingly, several large motor vehicle auction companies sell pre-owned vehicles. The pre-owned vehicles are assembled on one or more motor vehicle auction facilities. These pre-owned vehicles are consigned by motor vehicle manufacturers, rental car companies, commercial fleet companies, financial institutions, and motor vehicle dealers. In the past, full and effective participation in a commercial motor vehicle auction has meant that a representative of the motor vehicle dealer must personally visit the motor vehicle auction site to participate in the motor vehicle auction. This, of course, adds to the expense of purchasing vehicles in the motor vehicle auction and slows the entire process down. Accordingly, some in the motor vehicle auction industry have attempted to stream-line the process by providing a way in which vehicle dealers can participate in the motor vehicle auction from remote locations, using some form of electronic on-line access to the motor vehicle auction itself.

Brief Summary Text (4):

One attempt at implementing an on-line motor vehicle auction system is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,789,928, which was issued to Flex Japan, Inc. and Aucnet, Inc. on Dec. 6, 1988. In the system of the '928 patent, a host computer is connected to a number of "dealer terminals" through a hierarchy of "front" computers. Interactive bidding occurs over a conventional phone network so that the intermediate computers can transmit motor vehicle auction data between the motor vehicle dealer terminals and the host computer. Prior to the motor vehicle auction, laser discs storing information about the specific vehicles to be auctioned are physically delivered to the various dealer terminal locations. The dealer terminals then go on-line with the host computer to log in as an authorized user/bidder. In response to host computer commands, the dealer terminals are prompted to retrieve the data about the vehicle being auctioned. Then the bidding begins.

Brief Summary Text (5):

The Aucnet system does not address all of the needs of motor vehicle auction participants. For example, it lacks the capacity to electronically supply motor vehicle auction related information to the auction participants, such as a motor

vehicle auction sale calendar, vehicle stock locator, auction market reports, industry news, and the like. Also, the architecture of the Aucnet system is hardware intensive, making it more complex to set up, operate and maintain. Finally, the prior art systems do not allow a motor vehicle dealer to import their own vehicle inventories into the auction system so that they can be auctioned to other participants.

Brief Summary Text (8):

The electronic motor vehicle auction system of the present invention allows a motor vehicle dealer or other remote user to sign on to a host network from a personal computer. Data packets are routed to and from the user's PC workstation through a remote access server connected to a hub/router. An SQL server attached to the host network contains a relational database of auction data and responds to information queries initiated by the user.

Brief Summary Text (9):

Resident on the user's PC workstation are seven primary user applications: Sale Calendar, which provides information about the dates, locations, and inventory associated with the upcoming motor vehicle auctions; Stock Locator, which assists the user in locating a particular model vehicle; Electronic Motor Vehicle Auction, which permits the user to participate in the bidding process during an Electronic Motor Vehicle Auction; Market Reports, providing historical and current sale prices for different vehicle types that have been sold at auction in the system; Industry News, offering news and information about the auto industry and trends; Redistribution Management, in which a user can track its inventories at any or all motor vehicle auctions, as well as vehicles to be consigned for repossession, end-of-lease term, and pick up and delivery (this application can allow for file uploads and downloads to the consignor; and Dealer Direct, whereby manufacturers, captive finance companies, or other commercial vehicle sellers can import their vehicle inventories into the system for sale to participating dealers.

Drawing Description Text (4):

FIG. 2b is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user has selected the "Regular Sale" type from the "Sale Calendar" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (5):

FIG. 2c is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user has selected the "Manufacturer Sale" type from the "Sale Calendar" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (6):

FIG. 2d is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user has selected the "Heavy Duty/Truck Sale" type from the "Sale Calendar" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (7):

FIG. 2e is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user has selected the "Sales by Location" routine from the "Sale Calendar" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (8):

FIG. 3a is a flow chart diagram showing the initial sequence of events and user options after a user of the system has selected the "Stock Locator" application from the system main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (9):

FIG. 3b is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user selects the "Vehicle Search" routine from the "Stock Locator" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (10):

FIG. 3c is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user has selected the "Custom Locator" routine from the "Stock Locator" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (11):

FIG. 3d is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user has chosen to display equipment detail after a vehicle has been

located using either the "Vehicle Search" or "Custom Locator" routines as selected from the "Stock Locator" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (12):

FIG. 4a is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user selects the "Market Reports" application from the system main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (13):

FIG. 4b is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user selects the "Vehicle Search" routine from the "Market Reports" application main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (14):

FIG. 4c is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user selects the "Equipment Detail" routine from the "Market Reports" application main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (15):

FIG. 5 is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user has selected the "Industry News" application from the system main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (16):

FIG. 6a is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user has selected the "Electronic Auction" application from the system main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (17):

FIG. 6b is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user selects the "Electronic Sale Schedule" routine from the "Electronic Auction" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (18):

FIG. 6c is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user selects the "Sale Catalog/Inventory" display routine from the "Electronic Sale Schedule" menu screen, while in the "Electronic Auction" application.

Drawing Description Text (19):

FIG. 6d is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after the user selects the "Pre-Sale Registration" routine from the "Electronic Auction" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (20):

FIG. 6e is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options if the user selects the "Bidding Process" routine from the "Electronic Auction" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (21):

FIG. 6f is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options if the user selects the "Service Request" routine from the "Electronic Auction" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (22):

FIG. 7a is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options if the user selects the "Redistribution Management" application from the system main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (23):

FIG. 7b is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options if the user selects the "View Vehicle Detail" routine after the user has searched for and marked certain vehicles from an inquiry entered in the "Create Search" menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (24):

FIG. 7c is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user presented options if the user selects the "Transfer Information" routine from the "Redistribution Management" main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (26):

FIG. 9 a flow chart diagram showing the basic steps associated with the Dealer Direct application.

Drawing Description Text (27):

FIG. 10 is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options after a user of the system has selected the "Dealer Direct" application from the system main menu screen.

Drawing Description Text (28):

FIG. 11 is a flow chart diagram showing the sequence of events and user options during live bidding for a vehicle entered into the system for auction in the Dealer Direct application.

Drawing Description Text (29):

FIG. 12 is a representative sample of SQL source code used in the Dealer Direct application of the system.

Detailed Description Text (10):

A relational database, containing the various categories of motor vehicle auction data described below, is resident on the SQL server 9. In order to query the SQL server 9, the user software must first know the Destination Address of the SQL server 9 which is provided by the host system software. The local hub/router 8 reads the Destination Address (typically a 48 bit field embedded within a data packet) of the network data packet arriving from the remote access server 7 and determines if this is a valid Destination Address for this network. If valid, it delivers the packet to the appropriate host network device. If invalid, the hub/router 8 returns the packet with an "Undeliverable" message to the source address, i.e., the user workstation 2. The hub/router 8 will not deliver network data packets unless it has the appropriate Destination Address corresponding to the host network.

Detailed Description Text (11):

The SQL server 9 uses structured query language to allow all the user applications to access the relational databases resident on the server 9. An Alpha 2100 AXP computer from Digital Equipment, running Microsoft SQLServer operating software, can be used.

Detailed Description Text (15):

To begin using the on-line motor vehicle auction and information system, the user activates his or her workstation 2 in a conventional manner until the system icon is displayed on the Program Manager screen or Program Menu. After clicking on the system icon, the sign-on screen will appear. At this point, the user must enter his user number and password which has been assigned by the system administrator. The system will then dial the host network.

Detailed Description Text (16):

When the host network accepts the user's call and recognizes the user, the system main menu screen will appear. The system main menu screen will include icons or command buttons which correspond to the seven primary user applications, along with a Help and Exit button. Also, if the user has any messages sent by the system operator, a "Message Manager" dialog box will appear on the screen, asking the user if he wishes to read messages at that time. The Message Manager dialog box can also pop up at any time during which the user is logged on to the host network. When the Message Manager dialog box is displayed, the user can accept and read the messages, or defer reading them until later.

Detailed Description Text (20):

A second command button or option available to the user in the Sale Calendar application is Manufacturer Sale (FIG. 2c). This routine allows the user to obtain and display manufacturer sale information for all motor vehicle auction locations, including the date and time of the sale, the number of vehicles to be sold, and vehicle inventory information corresponding to each manufacturer sale. As an initial step after entering the Manufacturer Sale routine, a manufacturer selection screen will appear. After selecting the desired manufacturer, a listing of the motor vehicle auction locations and sale dates corresponding to that manufacturer will be displayed.

Detailed Description Text (23):

Finally, a fourth option or command button available to the user in the Sale Calendar application is Sales by Location. This routine allows the user to obtain sale information pertaining to a particular motor vehicle auction location selected by the user. Date and time of sale, number of units, consignor, and inventory information is available. The Sales by Locations screen graphically displays a map, with indications on the map as to the available locations which can be selected and searched by the user.

Detailed Description Text (32):

Thus, when the user selects the Stock Locator application command button at the system main menu screen, the Stock Locator main screen will appear. The user has two options in this application, Vehicle Search and Custom Locator (FIG. 3a). If the Vehicle Search command button is clicked on (FIG. 3b), multiple search screens will appear so that the user may select from pre-defined menus of make, model, and year of vehicles. Single or multiple vehicle types can be selected. Following selection of the vehicles to be located, a listing of vehicles corresponding to the search criteria will appear, along with motor vehicle auction information associated with those vehicles.

Detailed Description Text (33):

If the Custom Locator command button is activated, the Custom Locator main screen will appear (FIG. 3c). If the View Custom Searches command button is activated, a list of previously created custom searches can be viewed and selected from. Alternatively, if the Create Locator Criteria command button is activated, the user can create a new set of locator criteria, including motor vehicle auction locations and single or multiple vehicle types. The search criteria entered can be saved for future searches. Again, if the vehicles are found through a Custom Locator search, motor vehicle auction information including directions, addresses, phone numbers, and contact persons can be displayed and printed.

Detailed Description Text (37):

When the Market Reports application main menu appears, the user is given the option of obtaining market information by location (FIG. 4a). If the Select Location command button is chosen, a map displaying the various motor vehicle auction regions and locations appears. The user can then select a region by choosing a desired colored area on the map, or a particular motor vehicle auction location by clicking on the name of the specific motor vehicle auction location. Then, individual search screens corresponding to vehicle make, model, and year will appear so that user can select the type of vehicle for which market information is needed (FIG. 4b).

Detailed Description Text (42):

The Electronic Auction application enables the user to preview sale inventory associated with a specific motor vehicle auction, to register as a bidder for a sale, to bid electronically during the sale, and to electronically deliver vehicle transportation service requests (FIG. 6a).

Detailed Description Text (43):

The Electronic Auction main menu screen provides command buttons for "Electronic Sale Schedule", which allows the user to receive a listing of sale dates, time, and vehicle consignors (FIG. 6b). After the user selects a sale date from the Electronic Sale Schedule menu, the inventory or "sale catalog" associated with that sale will be displayed, either in total, or by model (FIG. 6c).

Detailed Description Text (44):

The user can initiate an on-line Pre-Sale Registration routine as described in FIG. 6b. At the Pre-Sale Registration main menu, clicking on the Register for Sale button permits user selection of a certain sale date to register for. The application then prompts the user for any changes to be made in the method of primary payment for any vehicles to be purchased at the motor vehicle auction. Then, the user must accept the rules, terms, and conditions associated with the sale.

Detailed Description Text (46):

Prior to the actual motor vehicle auction sale date, the user receives, by on-line file download, or by diskette, the sale information and the PIN number previously assigned. This information needs to be imported into the PC workstation 2 at the user's location so that the user can review the actual sale inventory prior to bidding at the sale. Thus, the registration screen in the Electronic Auction application will prompt the user to load the sale disk.

Detailed Description Text (47):

Another important routine within the Electronic Auction application is the actual Bidding Process (FIG. 6e). This allows the user to bid for vehicles on the specified sale date. To begin the Bidding Process, the user clicks on the Activate Bidding command button at the Electronic Auction Menu. At that time, the application will prompt the user for the PIN number corresponding to the day of sale. The bidding main screen then appears, with the notification of the start time of the motor vehicle auction. When the motor vehicle auction actually begins, the bid screen will appear. The bid screen includes an image and information about the vehicle being auctioned including vehicle run number, mileage, descriptive information, vehicle ID number, and condition and grade information. The bid screen also displays updated information as to the asking price, current bid price, the current bid number, and the previous bid number applicable to that vehicle. Finally, the bid screen keeps track of the units purchased during that motor vehicle auction by the user, and the dollar amount committed to purchases by the user during the sale.

Detailed Description Text (48):

During the sale, and while the bid screen is being displayed, a "start bidding" message will appear on the user's screen. At that point, the user may click on the bid command button to place a bid for the vehicle. The bid status section of the screen will then display "bidding" to confirm that a bid was entered from the user's workstation to the host network. When the user's bid is accepted, a message "you are current bidder" will appear in the status section of the bid screen. While the user is the current bidder, the user is not permitted to exit the sale or access on-line help.

Detailed Description Text (49):

As an aid to the bidder, the bidding screen will display a "check mark" in the message section to indicate that the particular vehicle being sold was previously flagged for interest by the user during review of the sale catalog prior to the sale date.

Detailed Description Text (50):

When the bidding closes, a message "going, going, sold" will appear on the bid screen and, if that particular user is the winning bid, a winning bid "ribbon" will be displayed in the message section.

Detailed Description Text (52):

The Electronic Auction application has a Service Request routine (FIG. 6f) which enables the user to arrange for transportation of vehicles purchased in an Electronic Auction sale. Thus, after a purchase is made, the user can select from the Electronic Auction main menu screen the Service Request command button to arrange for transportation. The next screen will display a listing of sale dates that the user participated in. The user then selects a date from the list, after which a list of vehicles corresponding to that sale date are posted along with transportation fees. The user then clicks on the vehicles in the list which are to be transported.

Detailed Description Text (53):

A Purchase Summary feature allows the user to obtain information, including year, make, model, sale price, and buyer and other fees, corresponding to vehicles that have been purchased in an Electronic Auction. Again, when selecting the Purchase Summary command button from the Electronic Auction main menu, the display will list the sale dates that the user participated in. Upon clicking on a particular sale date, a list of sale information corresponding to that motor vehicle auction and associated with that user will be displayed. After reviewing this information, the user may return to the Electronic Auction menu or may click on the Activate Bidding command button to return to the bidding process if applicable.

Detailed Description Text (56):

Another application available to the user in the system is Redistribution Management. This feature enables the user to assign, track, and review his or her respective vehicle consignment and sale activity for all motor vehicle auctions linked to the system. From the initial Redistribution Management menu screen (FIG. 7a), the user is given a choice of Create Search or Transfer Information routines.

Detailed Description Text (59):

Dealer Direct

Detailed Description Text (60):

The Dealer Direct application allows manufacturers, captive finance companies and other commercial vehicle sellers (collectively, "Clients") to import their vehicle inventories into the system database for sale to participating dealers. Dealer Direct permits Clients to sell their vehicles for a specific price ("Absolute Sale") or utilize the auction format to sell their vehicles ("Auction Sale").

Detailed Description Text (61):

In an Absolute Sale, vehicles are offered for sale at a specific price for a certain period of time ("Offer Period"). A dealer may purchase a vehicle at any time during the Offer Period by placing a bid equal to the specific price of the vehicle. In such case, the vehicle is deemed sold and is deleted from the Absolute Sale.

Detailed Description Text (62):

In an Auction Sale, vehicles are auctioned for a certain period of time ("Offer Period"). An initial minimum bid price (the "Start Price") is established for each vehicle by the Client and posted for viewing. A minimum sale price (the "Floor Price") is also established by the Client prior to the vehicle being offered for sale but is not posted on the dealer component of the application. The dealer places a bid in excess of the Start Price by selecting one of the five incremental amounts set forth in the application. The vehicle is sold to the highest bidding dealer at the end of the Offer Period provided the dealer's bid is equal to or in excess of the Floor Price.

Detailed Description Text (63):

At the end of the Offer Period, a report and/or a file download may be obtained by the Client summarizing which of its vehicles were sold, the purchase price, the purchasing dealer, which vehicles were not sold and the bidding activity relating thereto.

Detailed Description Text (64):

FIG. 9 is a block diagram that illustrates an overview of the flow for the Dealer Direct application, including the Clients' and dealers' portions.

Detailed Description Text (66):

FIG. 10 is a diagram that illustrates program flow following a dealer's access to the application. Once the dealer is authorized to access the system and application, the system software presents the dealer with five options "tabs" on screen. From a search tab displayed at the dealer's PC workstation 2, the dealer has the ability to define vehicle criteria based on year, make, model, mileage, VIN, location state, title state, location city, Client unit number and Client. After the criteria are defined, a query is made on the server 9 and returned to the dealer's PC workstation 2 and shown on a browse tab. The dealer can then view detailed information and conditions for each vehicle, mark a vehicle for interest, and place a bid or purchase the vehicle, depending on the offer format (i.e., Absolute Sale or Auction Sale.)

Detailed Description Text (68):

FIG. 12 is a sample source code used to implement the steps of the Dealer Direct application.

Detailed Description Paragraph Table (1):

Select Regular Sale Close Sale Calendar form
Open Schedule form Query database for items that meet Regular sale criteria Display items that meet Regular sale criteria Select Exit Unload Regular Sale Load Sale Calendar Select Heavy Duty/Truck Sale Close Sale Calendar form Open Schedule form Query database for items that meet Heavy Duty/Truck sale criteria Display items that meet Heavy Duty/Truck sale criteria Select exit Unload Heavy Duty/Truck sale Load Sale Calendar Select Manufacturer Sale Close Sale Calendar form Query table for available manufacturers and logo bitmaps Open Manufacturer Select form Display command buttons for manufacturer and bitmaps Select Manufacturer command button Close Manufacturer Select form Query table for sales for specified manufacturer Display Schedule form Display items that meet Manufacturer sale criteria Select exit Unload Manufacturer sale Load Sale Calendar Select Sale by Location Close Sale Calendar form Query table for available locations and label location on map Open Sale Locator form Display command buttons for OK and Exit Display label for each location Click on location label Select OK Close Sale Location form Query table for sales for specified location Display Schedule form Display items that meet locations sale criteria Select Exit Unload Sale by Location sale Load Sale Calendar Select

Help Open help for Sale Calendar Select Exit Unload Sale Calendar and return to previous menu _____

CLAIMS:

1. A system for electronic exchange of vehicle auction information between remote users and an auction service provider comprising:

a. a host computer network, including database server means to electronically store auction data and means to access and transmit the auction data in response to user commands;

b. computer workstations placed at locations associated with each user, the computer workstations including a video monitor, means to send user commands to the host computer network, and means to receive and display on the video monitor the auction data from the host computer network;

c. communicaitons network means to electronically link the computer workstations to the host computer network;

d. user application means for generating on the video monitors a series of command options selectable by the user to generate the user commands, whereby certain of the auction data stored on the host computer network is located, organized, and transmitted to a workstation in response to one or more particular user commands, the user application means including a dealer direct application means to allow the user of the system to transmit to the host computer user vehicle information that identifies vehicles that the user desires to sell through the system;

e. the auction data including information about the geographic location and date of auctions and about an inventory of vehicles available for sale at each of the auctions and further including the user vehicle information; and

f. electronic auction means associated with the workstations and host computer network whereby users may electronically place bids for vehicles being sold at an auction.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the electronic auction means includes a service request routine to allow the user to make an on-line request for transportation of vehicles purchased by the user during an electronic auction.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the dealer direct application means includes means to search and review vehicle data.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the dealer direct application means includes means to display information about vehicles which have been sold.

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L18: Entry 8 of 15

File: USPT

Aug 28, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6282517

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6282517 B1

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****

TITLE: Real time communication of purchase requests

DATE-ISSUED: August 28, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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APPL-NO: 09/ 231409 [PALM]

DATE FILED: January 14, 1999

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FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/37, 705/27, 705/28

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5283731</u>	February 1994	Lalonde et al.	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5842178</u>	November 1998	Giovannoli	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5937391</u>	August 1999	Ikedo et al.	705/14

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ART-UNIT: 214

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ABSTRACT:

A method and apparatus for formulating and submitting a purchase request over a computer network and making said purchase request available to a dealer immediately. A Data Center system has a system database, a buyer interface, and a dealer interface. The system database includes an exclusive database region for each participating dealer. A potential buyer submits a purchase request over a computer network to the Data Center system. The purchase request includes a product identification data and a buyer location information. The Data Center system further contains dealer information, product information, and the like. The Data Center system determines at least one appropriate dealer to receive the purchase request. The Data Center creates a purchase request record from the data and information provided in the purchase request. The Data Center then communicates the purchase request to the appropriate dealer by immediately storing the purchase request record into the appropriate dealer's exclusive database region. Thus, the purchase request record becomes immediately available to the appropriate dealer.

33 Claims, 17 Drawing figures



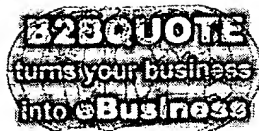
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OBM Financial System Checks and Controls features updated: 1/12/1999

OBM Control and Check

OBM Financial Accounting System
New features and enhancements

New Feature	
1.	Validation on "No quantity exceeded" in sales and purchase processing. The Need: Very often a storekeeper might mistakenly enter a wrong quantity received from supplier instead of the quantity based on the Delivery Note. If the quantity received is more than the purchase order quantity, the discrepancy amount is considered as unauthorized purchase! This may possibly lead to disputes that could result in the accounts department refusing to pay for the excess quantity. Solution: A new option is introduced to control the quantity received in excess of the purchase order quantity. Each shipment from supplier is recorded in Goods Received Note program; the system will perform the checking against the purchase order quantity and update the status on the back order quantity. If the control option is exercised, the system does not allow the user to save the transaction if the quantity received in total exceeds the purchase order quantity.
2.	Validation on unauthorized purchases by specifying "No additional item" to be received from supplier or to be delivered to customer The Need: Stock suppliers sometimes introduce new items in their bill or delivery order without going through the proper procedure of getting the purchase order. This is also known as unauthorised purchases! Solution: An option to control the new items received from supplier that is not found in any purchase order. When the control option is triggered, the system will not allow saving of such unauthorised "stray" items into the Good Received Notes or Purchase Invoice programs.
3.	Replacement Stock. The Need: Sometimes, there is a need for stock item to have more than one stock code for easy references. For instance, in the automobile industry, the storekeeper needs to trace the supplier stock code or manufacturer part number against their own stock code. Therefore, there is a need for the system to ascertain the stock item code with the other replacement stock such as supplier stock code or manufacturer part number code.

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	<p>S l u t i n: A new field "Replacement Stock" is available for the user to assign the alternative stock code. These can be manufacturer part no, supplier stock code, etc.</p>
4.	<p>Improved product ID and copy function in Stock</p> <p>The Need: In the conventional accounting software, product ID is uneditable. Therefore, the changing of product ID is deemed as a tedious task because the user would have to create new product ID and transfer the quantity from old product ID to new product ID.</p> <p>Solution: OBM Accounting now allows the user to change the product ID in an "Easy and Clean" manner, if authorised. The information of the old product ID will be transferred along to the new product ID. Alternatively, there is a Quick Button for Copy Stock if there is a need to create additional stock record.</p>
5.	<p>Control on Access Rights at section level in the Stock, Debtor, Creditor master file</p> <p>The Need: In most accounting softwares, the user is allowed to update almost all fields in the master file once they have gained the access rights. This leads to loss of control. Very often, certain staff should only be allowed to update certain stock information (e.g. selling price), and not all the other information in the stock master record.</p> <p>Solution: The new feature in OBM Accounting allows the user to set the user rights according to different section in the master file. For instance, the section of user rights in stock master file consists of Stock Master Info update, Stock Based Info, Stock Cost update, Stock Price update etc. You may delegate the job for clerical staff to key in the Stock Master Info and Stock Based Info and restrict them to update the cost and selling price of the stock.</p>
6.	<p>Secondary Name for stock item</p> <p>The Need: Stock item might have alternative name for different usage. For instance, the secondary name of Product A used in Hong Kong would be written in Chinese characters.</p> <p>Solution: Each stock item may have a secondary name, and the system would allow secondary names to be extracted for customisation.</p>
7.	<p>Reference Info</p> <p>The Need: Most industries require different reference fields to key in the business information for their operational needs and control. For instance, the exporter requires additional reference field for shipping documents, port, FOB status, ship number, etc.</p> <p>Solution: A new field "Reference Info" is introduced to key in user-defined fields in business documents such as</p>

quotation, sales order, delivery note, and sales invoices, purchase order, goods received note and purchase invoice. Information on the reference fields can be retrieved from screen to screen in order to reduce data entry. For instance, details of quotations can be copied into the sales order program. Additionally, the system allows these fields to be extracted for report customisation.

Enhancements

1.	Export file to include CSV format file.
	Besides exporting reports to a text file format, OBM Accounting now enables an additional file format for all report printing, i.e. the CSV format. This enhances data extraction and analysis to programs that accepts CSV files e.g. MS Excel.
2.	Internal transfer to include multiple receiving location.
	The enhanced feature allows the user to key multiple receiving locations in a single transfer.
3.	Additional master file to be included in export and import functions.
	The enhanced feature allows the user to include the staff, fixed asset, and customer group pricing and replacement stock in export & import function.
4.	Global Cost Center to facilitate entry and control for transactions for Cost Center, Project, Department and Branch.
	The additional global cost centre allows the system entry to Cost Center, and to preload the default Cost Centre for quick entry. This enhancement facilitates the accountability control in a multi-cost centre environment.
5.	Increased field length for "Location" from 5 to 15 characters.

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<u>L23</u>	5592375.pn.	1	<u>L23</u>
<u>L22</u>	5671279.pn.	1	<u>L22</u>
<u>L21</u>	5710887.pn.	1	<u>L21</u>
<u>L20</u>	5842178.pn.	1	<u>L20</u>
<u>L19</u>	5937391.pn.	1	<u>L19</u>
<i>DB=USPT,PGPB,JPAB,EPAB,DWPI,TDBD; PLUR=YES; OP=OR</i>			
<u>L18</u>	purchase near request near manag\$	15	<u>L18</u>
<u>L17</u>	purchase near request near manag\$ near system	4	<u>L17</u>
<u>L16</u>	L15 and task near3 list	3	<u>L16</u>
<u>L15</u>	L14 and purchase near2 requests	41	<u>L15</u>
<u>L14</u>	l9 and database	141	<u>L14</u>
<u>L13</u>	((((705/36)!.CCLS.))	883	<u>L13</u>
<u>L12</u>	((((705/37)!.CCLS.))	1278	<u>L12</u>
<u>L11</u>	((((705/28)!.CCLS.))	861	<u>L11</u>
<u>L10</u>	((705/27)!.CCLS.)	894	<u>L10</u>
<u>L9</u>	L4 and l6	143	<u>L9</u>
<u>L8</u>	L3 and l6	62	<u>L8</u>
<u>L7</u>	l5 and L6	62	<u>L7</u>
<u>L6</u>	(purchase adj1 order) and (order adj1 status)	217	<u>L6</u>
<u>L5</u>	l2 and l3	62	<u>L5</u>
<u>L4</u>	((((705/\$)!.CCLS.))	21580	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u>	((705/26)!.CCLS.)	2482	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u>	(purchase adj1 order) and (order adj1 status)	217	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	(purchase adj1 order) adj1 status	18	<u>L1</u>

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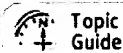
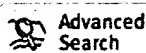
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L35	L31 and screen	105	L35
L34	L31 and task near list	0	L34
L33	L32 and task near list	0	L33
L32	L31 and list\$	129	L32
L31	L30 and database	144	L31
L30	L29 and dealer	169	L30
L29	L28 and request	499	L29
L28	purchas\$ near (vehicle or car or auto or automobile)	1380	L28
L27	l25 and (vehicle or car or auto or automobile) near purchase near request	1	L27
L26	l25 and vehicle near purchase near request	1	L26
L25	5283731.uref.	139	L25

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KAREN E. KLEIN. **Los Angeles Times**. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sep 3, 1997. p. 1
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